

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 420
By Langster

A RESOLUTION to name February 15, 1996 "African American Study of Kidney Disease and Hypertension (AASK) Day".

WHEREAS, in the history of this great nation, there have occurred from time to time, events that have been so noteworthy that they must be recognized as monumental; and

WHEREAS, the African American Study of Kidney Disease and Hypertension (AASK) is the first major study of the most common kidney disease among African Americans; and

WHEREAS, race alone seems to be a major risk factor, African Americans between the ages of 25-44 have twenty times the rate of hypertensive kidney failure as whites in the same age range; and

WHEREAS, the integrity of this nation is preserved only by concern for all of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the study, pushed and designed by African American doctors, nullifies the trend of systematically leaving African Americans out of medical studies; and

WHEREAS, more than 20 medical centers are participating in the study, including all U.S. medical schools with a predominantly African American student body (Howard University, Meharry Medical College, Morehouse School of Medicine and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science) and many major metropolitan hospitals with a predominantly African American patient population; and

WHEREAS, eight new clinics have been opened and \$52 million utilized for the 7 year full-scale phase that follows the year-long pilot project; and

WHEREAS, kidney disease is growing more rapidly in African Americans than in any other ethnic group; and

WHEREAS, African Americans make up 12% of the U.S. population, but account for 29-30% of people treated for kidney failure; and

WHEREAS, the improved control of hypertension has led to a decline in strokes and heart disease, but kidney disease due to hypertension continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, the disease is a major cause of death and disability in the African American community; and

WHEREAS, the average annual cost of treating hypertensive kidney disease is approximately \$1 billion annually for African Americans and costs the nation between \$8-11 billion a year in treatment overall; and

WHEREAS, the cost is approximately \$100 a month to treat a person with high blood pressure, but the price escalates to approximately \$4,800 a month to treat a person with end-stage renal disease; and

WHEREAS, studies like AASK and other preventive minority health initiatives are facing the chopping block in Congress and we must work assiduously to preserve their funding; and

WHEREAS, Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt University Medical Center have joined together to work on the study; and

WHEREAS, the AASK study should be appropriately recognized on the 15th day of February, 1996, and every other day; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That February 15, 1996 be named "African American Study of Kidney Disease and Hypertension (AASK) Day".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.